(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved, so far. in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHR1KARIYA MUNDA):(a)YesSir.

(b) and (c) 4 rural clusters have been identified for development in Gujarat under the national Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). these are:—

Pottery Cluster at Vadali, Leather Crafts Cluster at Khavada (Kutch district). Silk Khadi (Patola Weaving) at Surendra Nagar and Leather Activity at Junagarh.

As reported by the implementing agencies, development works are at various stages of implementation in these clusters.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

International Coir Fair

2578. SHRIMATISARLAMAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India International Coir Fair was held at Kochi from October, 11 to 13, 2001 to explore business opportunities on a common platform:

(b) if so, the countries which participated in the fair, and

(c) the trade partnerships and technological alliances signed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA):(a)YesSir.

(b) Eighteen (18) countries namely Australia, Bangladesh, China, Germany, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa. Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America had participated in the Fair and the Seminar.

(c) Signing of trade partnerships and technological alliances with the Coir Board was not envisaged at the Fair and the Seminar.

Protection to Co-operative Societies

2579. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBI AN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any exercise to find out die difficulties being faced by the Co-operative societies of the Agro and Rural Industries in the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any corrective steps and remedial measures based on the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIKARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (e) Looking into the problems of Khadi and Village Industries Sector, the Government of India on 13-5-2001, announced a package with the objectives of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the women and backward classes. The package comprises a rebate policy for five years, options of Rebate and market Development Assistance (MDA). Insurance cover to the Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital.

Losses by KVIC

†2580. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIVRANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that KVIC has been mcurring losses for the last few years;

(b) if so, the amount of losses it suffered during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 20(K)-2001;and

(c) the amount allocat *id* to the Commission by Government during each of the above said years and in what form?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is not a commercial organisation. However, in the course of its

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.